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22 June 2010

NH Site Evaluation Committee  
c/o Jane Murray, Secretary  
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: Letter from Lawrence Mazur, MD to the SEC dated 3/10/2010 concerning turbine wind syndrome and subsequent related correspondence from Dr. Mazur and others.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to express my strong support for the approval of the Groton Wind application and to offer several observations with regard to the concerns expressed by Dr. Mazur and others.

The purported turbine wind syndrome is the brainchild of Dr. Nina Pierpoint. To my knowledge Dr. Pierpoint's claims have not been subject to a peer review process and are available only in a book published by a private group. Despite the apparent lack of publication in a peer reviewed journal, her work and other similar wind related health claims have been reviewed several times by groups of professionals with expertise in relevant disciplines.<sup>1,2</sup> Some of these groups have been supported by various wind energy associations. To help judge their objectivity, they have published the protocols of their investigations. Reviewing groups include members with a variety of professional training: including MD's, M.Sc's and Ph.D's in disciplines such as audiology, otolaryngology, acoustics occupational/environmental medicine and public health.

These reviews have been critical of the adverse health claims proffered and, in some cases, very critical of the poor quality of the studies. Of particular concern is the anecdotal nature of the "data" as well as the lack of a generally accepted mechanism for the cause of such a wide variety of ailments. This claim for a single cause for such a diversity of illnesses would be extraordinary. A common philosophy in science is that *extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof*. This author's proof does not meet the usual standards, much less the extraordinary.

Since frequency and intensity act in concert to effect damage, the lack of hard data integrating the effects of both factors is another defect that I believe would prevent the conclusions from having any weight in a peer reviewed journal.

Even if one wished to be ultra cautious and to consider the barest possibility that some of the claims for the syndrome had some basis in fact, then one could follow the author's conservative recommendation that there be no significant human habitation within 1 ¼ miles (or 2 km not 2 miles as some have misquoted) of the turbines. A review of the proposed application shows that this is indeed the case.

The Committee cannot react to each and every claim made as if they were all legitimate. The usual rubric is to consider only claims made with full accounting of methods and data, and reviewed by appropriate peers. I am confident that the SEC will use this unbiased approach in reviewing the claims for wind turbine syndrome. I confidently leave the details to your experts for review.

The objections raised by several others are heartfelt and no doubt sincere. However, *sincerity alone is not sufficient to sustain an objection*. Some people, myself included, find above ground power lines unsightly. However, not many of us would give up home delivery of electric power in order to avoid the sight of the poles. Some object to the fact that their town will not receive any monetary benefit. Perhaps they would disallow the construction of ski facilities on the grounds that they don't have a ski mountain of their own. The tax benefit to Groton is not insignificant and is an important element in the program. However, Groton, like most of New Hampshire, is composed of people with a strong affection for all aspects of our rural quality of life. In our meetings with Iberdrola and visit to the Lempster facility, these considerations were frequently and thoroughly explored. Our conclusion is that the impact of this project will have minimal impact on the rural quality of life.

There are those who recognize the important benefits of a non carbon based energy source but want it at no personal cost -- a form of not-in-my-backyard. I am confident that the Committee recognizes that there are no perfect solutions to real world problems and that it will make its decision in the best interests of all of the residents of New Hampshire.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your serious consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Louis R. Lieto, Ph.D.  
Groton Resident

1. [http://www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/AWEA\\_CanWEA\\_SoundWhitePaper\\_12-11-09.pdf](http://www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/AWEA_CanWEA_SoundWhitePaper_12-11-09.pdf)
2. [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/ministry\\_reports/wind\\_turbine/wind\\_turbine.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/ministry_reports/wind_turbine/wind_turbine.pdf)